

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in the application and are allowed. Claims 17-19 have been canceled with the instant amendment.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Whetstone* (US 4,025,379).

Claims 18 and 19 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Whetstone* (US 4,025,379) and *Stark* (US 5,563,463).

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 1-14 are allowed.

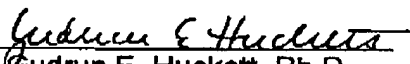
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner have any further objections or suggestions, the undersigned would appreciate a phone call or e-mail from the examiner to discuss appropriate amendments to place the application into condition for allowance.

Authorization is herewith given to charge any fees or any shortages in any fees required during prosecution of this application and not paid by other means to Patent and Trademark Office deposit account 50-1199.

Respectfully submitted on June 3, 2005.


Ms. Gudrun E. Huckett, Ph.D.
Patent Agent, Registration No. 35,747
Lönsstr. 53
42289 Wuppertal
GERMANY
Telephone: +49-202-257-0371
Facsimile: +49-202-257-0372
gudrun.draudt@t-online.de

GEH

- 4 -

6/3/05: Amd for Ser. No. 09/899,694 - Inventor(s): Frölich et al. - Filing Date: 7/5/2001